

REMARKS

Priority Claim

A Claim to Priority and certified copy of the priority document were submitted on November 3, 2003. A Request for Acknowledgement of Priority Claim was filed on April 22, 2008. Applicant again requests that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the priority document in the next official communication.

Signed PTO 1449 Forms

An Information Disclosure Statement citing two Japanese documents was filed on September 12, 2007. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner sign and return the PTO-1449 form to indicate that the documents have been considered.

Further, a corrected PTO-1449 form was submitted on July 11, 2007, to correct the citation of a document submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 12, 2003. Applicant again respectfully requests that the Examiner sign and return the corrected PTO-1449 form to confirm that the correct document has been considered.

Response to Office Action

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-5 and 7-14 are pending in this application, with Claim 1, 8, 11 and 14 being independent.

Claims 1-5, 7-11 and 14 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,155,051 (Murakawa). Claims 3, 10 and 13 were rejected under 35

U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murakawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,835 to (Inoue). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murakawa in view of Official Notice.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the feature of converting a color space, which is dependent on an image input-output device, of an image which is output from a device driver of the image input-output device into a common color space used in an OS of a host computer, by performing color matching processing using a profile corresponding to the image input-output device, where the color matching processing is performed using a color matching module included in the OS. Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least that feature.

Murakawa discloses an image recognition apparatus which detects a specific pattern from a binarized image converted from an input multi-level color image. That patent also discloses that the apparatus converts the input multi-level image into a low-resolution multi-color image which is usable for image recognition, and it binarizes the low-resolution multi-color image.

The present invention and a technique described in Murakawa differ in at least the following two aspects:

(i) color space conversion

Murakawa mentions about binarization processing of a color image in a specific color. For each pixel in the color image, the bit of the pixel is turned on if the RGB value of the pixel is in a predetermined range, and otherwise the bit is turned off (Column 4, lines 35-51). However, Murakawa does not mention conversion of color space. That is, the color space is constant in Murakawa.

On the other hand, the present invention recited in Claim 1 converts a color space of an image which is output from a device driver of the image input-output device into a common color space used in an OS, by performing color matching processing using a profile

corresponding to the image input-output device. Thus, the present invention recited in Claim 1 enables better image determination any type of image input-output device.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Murakawa fails to teach or suggest "a color space conversion unit for converting a color space, which is dependent on the image input-output device, of an image which is output from a device driver of the image input-output device into a common color space used in an OS of the host computer, by performing color matching processing using a profile corresponding to the image input-output device, where the color matching processing is performed using a color matching module included in the OS" as recited in amended Claim 1.

(ii) images which become target of image determination

Further, Applicant submits that Murakawa mentions performing specific pattern detection only for an image acquired by scanner 8 (Column 4, lines 15-25). That is, Murakawa does not suggest a situation in which plural kinds of image input-output devices are used. In addition, Murakawa does not mention about performing specific pattern detection for an image to be output by an output device (e.g. printer).

On the other hand, in the present invention recited in Claim 1, since an image output by a device driver of an image input-output device is converted to a common color space, both of an image generated by a device driver of an input device (e.g. scanner) and an image generated by a device driver of an output device (e.g. printer) are converted into images with the same color space and same resolution. After that, the image processing apparatus determines whether the image is a specific image, using those converted images. Therefore, the image processing apparatus according to the present invention can more properly determine whether the image is a specific image.

For this additional reason, Applicant submits that Murakami does not disclose or suggest the present invention recited in Claim 1.

Applicant submits that the other art of record fails to remedy the above-mentioned deficiencies of Murakami. Therefore, Applicant submits that the present invention recited in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the art of record, even if that art is combined.


The other independent claims recite features similar to those of Claim 1 discussed above and are believed to be patentable for reasons similar to Claim 1.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian L. Klock
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 36,570

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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